

Message Text

PAGE 01 PEKING 01593 120237Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 120215Z DEC 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1127

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1593

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, CH, UK, UR

SUBJECT: PRC CIVIL AIR RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

REF: PEKING 1552

1. PRC-UK. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER REVEALED UNDER STRICTEST PLEDGE OF CONFIDENCE THAT PRC-UK AIR AGREEMENT STALLED BECAUSE CHINESE, AFTER INITIALLING AGREEMENT, DEMANDED UK PUT PRESSURE ON TAIWAN TO CHANGE NAME CHINA AIRLINES AND REMOVE NATIONALIST FLAG FROM PLANES. EMBARRASSED SQUIRMS AND GIGGLES WHICH ACCOMPANIED EX POST FACTO CHANGE IN CHINESE POSITION SUGGESTED TO BRITISH THAT FAILURE OF PRC TO INCLUDE TAIWAN QUESTION IN EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS THE RESULT OF A MAJOR ERROR STEMMING FROM BAD STAFF WORK.
2. BRITISH ARE NOT INCLINED TO GIVE IN ON QUESTION. THEY BELIEVE LUCRATIVE CATHAY PACIFIC AIRLINES ROUTE TO TAIWAN OUTWEIGHS TWICE WEEKLY PROFITLESS BOAC RUN TO PEKING. AT MOMENT AS UK IS DEBATING TACTICS AND POSITION, ONE OPTION BEING DISCUSSED IS TO THROW IN TOWEL AND MAKE THEIR DIFFICULTIES PUBLIC.
3. SENSITIVITY OF FOREGOING IS SELF-EVIDENT, ESPECIALLY AS CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH SIDES PREPARING FOR HEATH VISIT. EMBASSY OFFICER CLEARLY TALKING OUT OF SCHOOL. URGE THAT INFORMATION BE HELD IN TIGHTEST WAY AND THAT UK GET NO INKLING WE AWARE OF PROBLEM.

4. PRC-USSR. SOVIET EMBASSY POL COUNS CHUKHROV TOLD USLO
OFFICER IN PASSING THAT CHINESE AND SOVIETS HAD FINALLY SIGNED
PROTOCOL TO AIR AGREEMENT DECEMBER 10. DIRECT SIX HOUR
PEKING-MOSCOW SERVICE WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY. WILL SEND DETAILS
WHEN AVAILABLE.
BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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